

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 22 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, asserting that certain language in these claims is not supported by the specification. The undersigned conducted a telephonic interview with the Examiner on July 24, 2003 concerning this rejection. After the undersigned explained in that interview why the Examiner's assertion is incorrect, the Examiner is willing to withdraw such a rejection. In any event, claims 22 and 41 have been amended for other reasons and, as a result, the language in question has been deleted from these claims.

The Examiner rejected claims 22-25, 28, 41-50, 53 and 66-71 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly obvious over Cox in view of Darden. In response, base claims 22, 41, 47 and 66 have been amended. Claims 23-25, 28, 29, 43, 48-50, 53, 54 and 68 have also been amended to properly reference the amended base claims.

The invention is directed to a technique for management of a data source, e.g., a private directory, for use in an information assistance service including directory assistance. For example, a private directory may contain contact information for an individual or a group. However, users of a private directory may be accorded different levels of access rights. For instance, a read-only user of the private directory has the right to read the directory only; an administrator of the private directory has the right to read and edit the directory, and provision new read-only users as well as restrict previously provisioned read-only users; an owner of a private directory, normally a creator thereof, not only has access rights commensurate with an administrator but also the rights to delete the directory, and provision and dismiss administrators of the directory.

In accordance with an aspect of the invention, the private directories associated with a user may be maintained through a directory assistance provider. Such private directories may be identified by the user's telephone number representative of the user. For example, if the user uses a wireless telephone to call the directory assistance provider at a predetermined number, e.g., "411," the private directories are identified to the

directory assistance provider based on the telephone number of the user's wireless telephone, also known as mobile identification number (MIN). The directory assistance provider, e.g., an operator, answering the call may read, edit and/or delete items of the identified private directories for the user, subject to similar access rights allocated to the user. The operator may also establish, for the user, a telephone connection based on contact information concerning a desired party in a private directory, thereby connecting the user to the desired party. See page 6, line 19 et seq. of the specification.

Cox discloses a directory assistance system for automatically reconnecting a call to an operator after the call is unsuccessfully connected to a destination party desired by a user. Darden discloses a communications system for a subscriber to create and access his/her own personal electronic directory (PED).

However, nowhere does Cox or Darden teach or suggest that the user be allocated "one of a plurality of levels of access to the selected data source, the plurality of levels of access being associated with respective sets of allowed action concerning the selected data source," as amended claims 22, 41, 47 and 66 now recite. *A fortiori*, nowhere does Cox or Darden teach or suggest that a "directory assistance provider [be] accorded a level of access to the selected data source as a function of the level of access allocated" to the user, as the amended claims also recite. In addition, Cox and Darden, individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest that the "directory assistance provider [be] allowed to take the action" requested by the user "when the action is within the set of actions associated with the level of access accorded to the directory assistance provider," as the amended claims further recite. As such, amended claims 22, 41, 47 and 66, together with their dependent claims, are patentable over Cox in view of Darden.

The Examiner also rejected claims 29 and 54 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cox in view of Darden and further in view of Marwell. Applicants do not admit that Marwell is prior art. In any event, the claimed invention represented by claims 29 and 54 is patentable over the cited references by virtue of their dependency

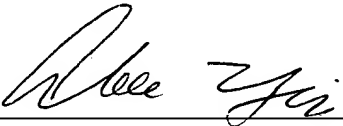
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from amended claims 22 and 47, respectively, which are patentable for reasons set forth above.

Claims 72-93 have been added, which are drawn to different aspects of the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, each of claims 22-25, 28, 29, 41-44, 46-50, 53, 54, 66-69 and 71, as amended, and claims 72-93, as added, is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of these claims is requested and allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully,

By 

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